



## A LIVING DEATH IS HIS TORTURE.

Old Pennsylvania Law Revived in James B. Gentry's Case.

Madge Yorke's Slayer Going Mad Because No One He Knows May Visit Him.

Not Even His Mother is Allowed to See Him—Can Never Bid Him Good-by.

HE IS WORN TO SKIN AND BONES.

Ancient Barbarous Law is Said to Owe Its Enforcement to Judicial Disfavor with the Treatment Murderer Holmes Received.

The condemned murderer shall be taken to the county prison and there kept in close confinement until the hour of his execution. He shall only be visited by his jailers and wardens and prison officials, by the judges of the Court of Oyer and Terminer for the county in which he was convicted; by the District Attorney for such county, and by members of the Pennsylvania Legislature. And such condemned murderer shall be allowed to write but one letter each month from the day of his conviction to the day of his execution.

It is the operation of this law, passed in 1846, which is undermining the health of James B. Gentry, now under sentence of death in Philadelphia for the murder of his sweetheart, Margaret Drysdale, known in theatrical circles as Madge Yorke.

The Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania doesn't know whether to send James B. Gentry to the gallows or to let him die a natural death. The Governor of Pennsylvania is a humane man, and if he has considered the matter at all, he knows that the condemned actor, now lying in Moyamensing Prison, Philadelphia, has already suffered a thousand deaths under the workings of a law more barbarous in its refined cruelty than was ever conceived by a Council of Zen.

James B. Gentry, since July last, has been literally buried alive. There is a saying in Pennsylvania that if a condemned man can contract pneumonia or some fatal ailment and cheat the gallows by dying in bed, "the entire official family of the Commonwealth experiences profound relief."

That Gentry is dying is certain, despite the denials of the prison physician, Dr. B. F. Butcher. He is not dying, however, as quickly as did his sweetheart, Madge Yorke, whom he slew.

The operation of this law will drive him insane unless the day for a more shameful death is quickly set. His pitiable condition is due to the act passed in 1846, recently resurrected by the judges of Philadelphia's Court of Oyer and Terminer. It came about in this way:

Mudget, alias H. H. Holmes, lay, as now lies Gentry, in Moyamensing Prison, under sentence of death. No one knew, save he, the number of his victims. Criminologists pronounced him a degenerate. Hall Caine, the British author, visited him and studied him. A scientist of the Federal Government did the same. The whole civilized world wondered what manner of man could be this prisoner of the County of Philadelphia. How many people had he actually killed? Who were they, and when and how did he slay them? Holmes was silent for weeks. But when, finally, the day of execution was appointed, and the hour of his death drew nearer and nearer, he consented to write the story of his life, and the world became convinced that he was a degenerate.

Holmes Case Led to It.

All this was inexplicably shocking to the learned judges of Oyer and Terminer. To advance the science of criminology by reciting the life story of this extraordinary criminal wounded their sensibilities. "This must never occur again," they exclaimed in hushed whispers.

They delved among the dusty tomes of the State Library, and at length brought to light a volume containing the legislative acts of 1846. There they found exactly what they sought. The pages were yellow, but they had little difficulty in deciphering the words of the law quoted elsewhere, by which condemned murderers may be sent to a living tomb.

Fearfully they searched the records of succeeding legislatures for a period covering half a century, but nowhere could be found an act repealing this inhuman statute.

So the superintendent of Moyamensing Prison was speedily seen.

"This law must be enforced, and rigidly enforced," was the edict.

And so the aged mother of the doomed man journeys from her distant home in Maryland vainly each week to see her only child. The law is being enforced.

Day after day the prisoner begs that he be allowed to see his mother.

"Just once," he pleads with his keepers. "I'm dying—know I'm dying."

But the keepers are powerless, for the law of 1846 has never been repealed.

It was in March, 1895, that James Gentry killed Margaret Drysdale, known on the stage as Madge Yorke, in Zeisler's little theatrical hotel, on Walnut street, Philadelphia. She had promised to meet him at Jersey City, and had journeyed on there to keep her appointment. In some way they missed one another. Gentry, the comedian of the stage, had always been the tragedian in private life. With the Latin blood of Italian ancestors in his veins, and recalc-

Continued on Second Page.

## HER BOY HAD BEEN DRUNK

Sad Story of Mrs. O'Neil, Who, Heartbroken and Otherwise Bruised, Asked the Court to Censure Him.

"He is my eldest boy, Your Honor," said Mrs. Elizabeth O'Neil, in the Jefferson Market Police Court, yesterday. "I will thank you to talk to him and show him that he will become a drunkard if he does not mend his ways."

Mrs. O'Neil pointed to her son, Charles, who lives with her at No. 108 Leroy street. Charles was weeping and did not dare to look his mother in the face. Long after school hours last Friday Charles went home. Sad to say he was under the influence of liquor. Mrs. O'Neil was greatly shocked, and remonstrated with her son, who, forgetting his filial duty, threw his mother over a chair. It almost broke her heart and otherwise bruised her. So she called in Policeman Quinn, of the Charles Street Station, who marched Charles to a prison cell.

"He is not a bad boy at heart," said Mrs. O'Neil, yesterday, "but his associates are ruining him. Give him a good scolding, Your Honor."

"I scarcely feel competent to do so," said Magistrate Stumm, but, turning to the prisoner, he added in a severe tone, "O'Neil, I fine you \$2. But if you come before me again I'll send you to the workhouse for six months."

Charles dried his eyes, and paid his fine. He is sixty-five years old; his mother is eighty-three.

## BENEDICT'S GAS DEAL.

Dietrich Syndicate, of Which Cleveland's Friend is President, Buys Out Ohio and Indiana Companies.

Lima, Ohio, Nov. 22.—The Dietrich syndicate, of which E. C. Benedict, President Cleveland's close friend, is president, has just closed a deal whereby it acquires all the property of the Ohio & Indiana Natural Gas Company. This includes the plants of Lima, Dayton, Lima, Sidney, Wapakoneta, in Ohio, and a number of towns in Indiana. The deal involves millions.

J. A. Graves, superintendent of the Cuddey Pipe Line, was here today and left for St. Mary's. The Cuddey brothers have leased from the State all of the land lying under the St. Mary's reservoir, which covers 17,000 acres, for oil purposes. It is understood that they will connect this territory with their Chicago and Indiana pipe line.

## YOUTHFUL TRAIN WRECKERS.

Railroad Detectives in Chicago Run Down a Gang of Eleven Boys.

Chicago, Nov. 22.—The arrest to-day of eleven youths, ranging in age from sixteen to twenty-one years, has brought to light a train-wrecking plot whose unveiling has engaged the detectives of the Chicago & Northwestern Railway for the past fortnight.

With the exception of the trainmen, perhaps not one of the 150 passengers who came to Chicago November 8 on the Green Bay Express over the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad, knew that a gang of hoodlums had planned to wreck the train within the city limits. They had laid across the track a twenty-foot steel rail, and it was by almost a miracle that the wholesale slaughter of human lives was prevented. There is a twelve-foot embankment on the side of the track, and had the engine been derailed, the conspirators planned, the train, with its human freight, would certainly have gone down the embankment.

## PAYNE WILL GO BACK ARMED.

Victim of Hazards at Lafayette College Determined to Return.

Henry M. Payne, the Lafayette College sophomore who was lured by his college associates, left Brooklyn on Saturday night for his home in Southold, L. I. Payne intended to return to Easton on Saturday, but the president of the college advised him by telegraph not to do so until the excitement had subsided.

"I shall go back to Easton," said Payne, "and I mean to stay at Lafayette College unless I decide to change for economical reasons. I am assured of police protection to meals, chapel and recitations. I shall carry a revolver and protect myself if other protection fails me."



Madge Yorke and James B. Gentry, Who Killed Her.

The murderer, who is confined in Moyamensing Prison, Philadelphia, is subjected to the requirements of an old act passed in 1839 which forbids a condemned murderer ever to see any member of his family or any friend. Gentry is said to be going insane.

## DIAMOND THIEVES NEATLY TRAPPED.

Men Who Stole \$5,000 Worth of Jewels in Chicago Captured in Buffalo.

Almost All of the Gems Found Hidden in the Mattress of Their Bed.

Fought Desperately to Get Away from Their Captors, but Finally Succumbed and Confessed.

STOLE TO SUPPORT A SICK WIFE.

Robbers Are Brothers, One of Whom Told the Police He Had Been Driven to Commit the Crime by Dire Poverty.

Buffalo, N. Y., Nov. 22.—George and Arthur Hawkins, who robbed Hermann & Co.'s diamond store in the Masque Temple, Chicago, on the afternoon of November 9, were captured in the Buffalo Post Office last night by Detectives Devine and Sullivan. A "tip" had been received here that the men were in town, and the detectives laid in wait for them at the Post Office, where it was expected they would inquire for letters.

When Sullivan heard a man, accompanied by another man, ask for a letter for Arthur Hawkins, he walked over and attempted to slip the handcuffs on him. The Hawkins brothers faced about and jumped at the detectives, who, however, succeeded in making them prisoners after a hard ten minutes' struggle, in which the Hawkinses were badly cut on the head.

Superintendent Bull to-day got a full confession from both men and recovered almost all the stolen jewels, worth between \$4,000 and \$5,000. Some of the stones are set, but the greater part are loose.

The Hawkins brothers came to Buffalo yesterday morning from Cleveland, and went to live at No. 123 West Eagle street. They remained in their room most of the day, and in the evening went to the Post Office, where they were so promptly captured. They were kept apart during the night, and this morning the pumps were applied and the men confessed.

**Jewels Hidden in the Mattress.**

They went to their room with the officers, and there the valuables were found, hidden beneath the carpet and in the mattress. Pawn tickets for \$31 worth of rings were found in their valise. The articles had been pawned in Detroit and Chicago.

George Hawkins said that he was thirty-two years old and a printer by trade. His family lives at No. 15 Charles place, Chicago. He says that this is his first crime. He was hard up, his wife was sick and he could not get work. He needed money, and took the desperate chance of holding up Hermann's place.

Arthur is only twenty years old, but he has already "served time" for robbery. Only a few weeks before the "job" at Hermann's was done he was liberated from the reformatory at Pontiac, where he had served twelve months for burglary committed at Englewood.

## Planning the Robbery.

The day before the hold-up they went into Hermann's office, and while one talked to the proprietor the other surveyed the situation preparatory to the next day's work. After the robbery they remained in Chicago two days. Then they started East and stopped in Detroit, where they pawned a watch and two diamond rings. Feeling uneasy in Detroit they moved to Cleveland, where they remained until Friday night, when they started for Buffalo. The prisoners have signified their willingness to return to Chicago without trouble. They will stop over in Cleveland and Detroit with the officers to aid in the recovery of the jewels pawned.

## HARD TASK SET FOR WEYLER.

Informed by Spain That He Has Got to Whip Maceo.

London, Nov. 22.—A dispatch to the Standard from Madrid, says the Government has intimated to General Weyler that, for reasons of international and domestic politics, it will not be expedient for him to return to Havana until he has achieved a decisive victory over Maceo.

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## MRS. CRAVEN NOT CAUGHT NAPPING.

She Cleverly Escapes a Trap Set by the Fair Children's Attorneys.

Will Not Attempt to Prove Valid the Pencilled Will of the Millionaire.

Her Whole Claim for a Share of the Great Estate Will Be Based on the Alleged Deeds She Holds.

COMPROMISE IS NOT IMPROBABLE.

Both Sides Are Anxious to Settle the Controversy Out of Court, and It Seems to Be Now Only a Question of Terms.

San Francisco, Nov. 22.—The failure of the latest effort to compromise the antagonistic claims in the Fair will case and to settle the demands of Mrs. Nettie R. Craven and Dr. Maceo Livingston out of court has revealed an exceptionally inter-



Miss Marjorie Craven, Who May Get Part of the Fair Estate. She is the daughter of the woman who claims to be the California millionaire's widow and is now travelling in Europe. Miss Craven was once a member of the Lyceum Theatre Company.

esting condition of affairs in both camps of the litigants.

While denials are vigorous in general, the fact remains that the children of James G. Fair favored a compromise with Mrs. Craven in reference to the pencilled will and the deeds she holds. The heirs of the millionaire care very little about the will, but they are afraid of the deeds, and they were assured that Mrs. Craven would give them up for a reasonably small sum.

Upon that understanding negotiations were opened and the prospect of a settlement seemed good. Mrs. Craven, however, insisted upon a high figure, and no inducement could bring her to the terms of the other side. The conference came to an abrupt end on Saturday.

**Mrs. Craven Escapes a Trap.**

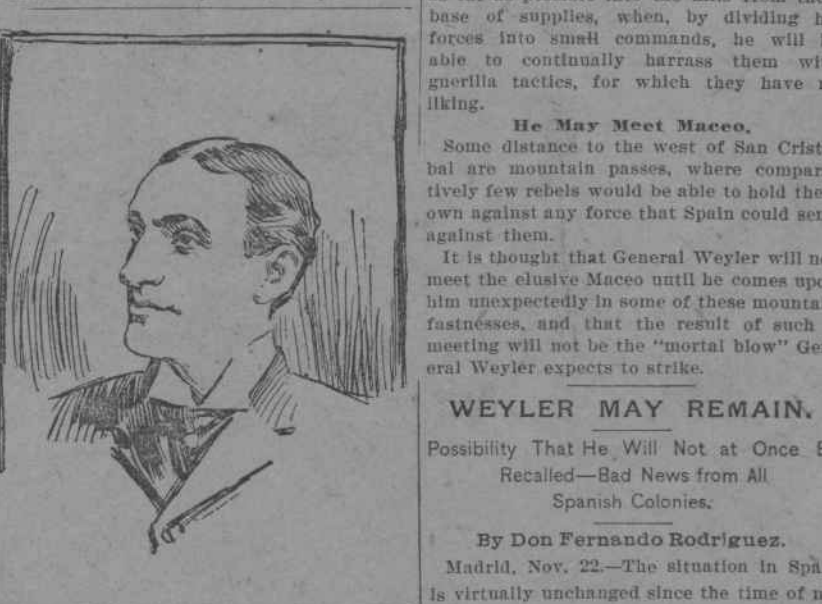
While negotiations had been in progress both sides had been quietly at work in other directions. The attorneys for the children relied upon their ability to lead Mrs. Craven and Dr. Livingston into a trap. The chances of throwing the pencilled will out of court appeared to be excellent, and if it were thrown out the gravest suspicion would be cast upon the genuineness of the deeds. The representatives of the children had every reason to believe that Mrs. Craven would proceed to trial in court. It was safe, therefore to refuse to compromise unless upon terms satisfactory to the heirs.

They were dumbfounded when Mr. Delmas withdrew the pencilled will, and they realized that Mrs. Craven's representatives had escaped the trap set for them.

**He May Meet Maceo.**

Some distance to the west of San Cristobal are mountain passes, where comparatively few rebels would be able to hold their own against any force that Spain could send against them.

It is thought that General Weyler will not meet the elusive Maceo until he comes upon him unexpectedly in some of these mountain fastnesses, and that the result of such a meeting will not be the "mortal blow" General Weyler expects to strike.



General Weyler, who is expected to strike Maceo. He is the commander of the Spanish forces in Cuba.

Continued on Second Page.

## WEYLER GRANTS MACEO A RESPITE.

Will Graciously Allow the Cuban to Live Until After Christmas.

But Then, Says the Captain-General, Look Out for Something Awful.

For He Intends to Strike a Blow That Will Really Annihilate the Patriot Forces.

SAYS "THE BUTCHER," "WE'LL SEE."

Meanwhile He Has Gone into a Snug Camp and is Calmly Preparing for Dreadful Slaughter After the Holidays.

Havana, Nov. 22.—After a somewhat lengthy silence, Captain-General Weyler has at last been heard from, and in an interview he expressed himself as being confident of "soon" putting an end to the insurrection.

## HANNA AFTER THE TOGA?

May Put Foraker or Sherman into the Cabinet to That He Can Reach the Senate.

Washington, Nov. 22.—In all discussions of McKinley's triumphant entrance into the capital, there is ever present the name of Hanna. One Republican Senator, hailing from a Western State, to-day talked at length of the plans of Hanna.

"He will not be in the Cabinet," he said. "If he wants the Treasury portfolio, it is his, and all the wheels of politics may whirl and whir against it without avail. That he will be in Washington, however, is certain, and so far as one may prophesy from present political goosebones and other signs, will sit with the favored minority draped in the Senatorial toga."

In order to make this move, however, he must clear a square, and as there are but two so occupied as to block his play, speculation can deal only with Sherman and Foraker. Of the two Foraker is the more likely to be selected, although Sherman would be the popular selection. With either out of the way there would be clear passage for Hanna, and arguing along the line of Hanna's wishes I think it safe to predict that in McKinley's Cabinet will be one of the Ohio Senators.

"In coming to Washington as Senator, however, he will have a dual purpose. His chronicled intention to establish here a permanent Republican headquarters for his purpose the maintenance of the Hanna power in the party. This headquarters establishment will have for its purpose the supervision of the dispensing of patronage and as its real head Hanna will keep a keen lookout on the giving out of offices."

## HER CREW IN THE RIGGING.

Only Five Men Out of Forty-five Get Ashore from the San Benito, Wrecked in California.

San Francisco, Nov. 22.—The Southern Pacific Railway Company's steel screw collier, San Benito, coal laden from Tacoma to San Francisco, was driven ashore in a gale this afternoon near Point Arena, Cal.

The San Benito carries a crew of forty-five, of which five have reached the land in safety. The others are reported to be perched in the rigging and at the mercy of the waves.

Point Arena is a considerable distance from any telegraph station, and details are meagre.

## BEHEADED BY A ROCK.

Young Champaign Rolled Stones Down a Hill, and One Chopped His Father's Head in Two.

Cedar Run, Pa., Nov. 22.—While hunting pheasants on the mountain side near here, Joseph Champaign had his head cut off by a rolling stone in a most remarkable manner.

His ten-year-old boy and two playmates were up the steep mountain side, about fifty yards, tumbling rocks down its precipitous sides, in order to see them splash into the creek.

A big stone, started by young Champaign on its downward course, struck the older Champaign and knocked the back of his head off as clean as though it had been cut with an axe.

## FEAR BODY-STEALING.

Watch Kept on the Grave of a Woman Whose Case Had Interested Many Medical Colleges.

It is said at Perth Amboy that a watch is kept on St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal graveyard at that place nightly through fear that the body of Miss Fannie Hawley, which was buried there last week, will be taken from the grave by body-snatchers.

Miss Hawley's father was formerly the pastor of the church. She was sixty years of age when she died, a week ago yesterday, from cancer of the stomach. Because of certain peculiarities in her case, it is said some medical men would have liked to have studied the formation of death. It is said that during her efforts to obtain a cure or relief the case under the observation of a number of doctors and was talked of in the medical profession. In this way it is said to have become known to a number of colleges, hence the fear that caused the guard to be stationed.

## ACTOR MESTAYER IS DEAD.

Well-Known Comedian and Playwright Succumbs to Bright's Disease.

William A. Mestayer, the well-known comedian and playwright, died at his residence, No. 337 West Twenty-third street, late Saturday night, of Bright's disease. He had been ill for several months.

William A. Mestayer was for many years a member of the late John McCullough's company, playing the comedy roles. While thus engaged Edward E. Rice saw him and immediately engaged him for "Evangeline." He remained under Mr. Rice's management for eight years, appearing in all the burlesques produced by that manager during that period.

In conjunction with James Barton Key, Mr. Mestayer wrote "The Tourist in a Pullman Car," and the piece is said to have earned more than \$50,000 for its authors. Mr. Mestayer subsequently wrote "We, Us & Co.," "Tobogganing," and "The Grab Bag," all of which were very successful. In 1888 he married Theresa Vaughn, the actress, who until yesterday, when she was informed of her husband's death, has been fulfilling an engagement with "Excelsior, Jr.," at the Boston Museum.

The funeral will take place to-morrow afternoon at 2 o'clock from the "Little Church Around the Corner." The Rev. Dr. George H. Houghton will conduct the services. Delegations from the New York Lodge of Elks and the Actors' Order of Friendship, of which the deceased was a member, will attend the funeral.

## MANY DESERTED WIVES.

Topeka Said to Contain 400 of These Unhappy Females.

Topeka, Kas., Nov. 22.—The officers of a charitable institution of this place yesterday made the remarkable statement that there were over 400 deserted wives in this city and that every day adds to the list of such women who appeal for work, or sollicit funds with which to buy bread.

The society attributes this state of affairs to hard times and the general worthlessness of the men complained of. The divorce mill in Topeka is running on steadily. Every week many divorces are granted, incompatibility of temper being the general charge.

## PRINCE OF WALES VISITS BLENHEIM.

Marlboroughs Are to Receive the Stamp of Royal Approval.

American Duchess Will Be Welcomed to England's Highest Circles.

Princess of Wales and the Princess Victoria Will Also Be Guests.

Distinguished House Party Has Been Invited to Meet the Noble Guests To-day.

## A WEEK OF ELABORATE FETES.

County Ball Had Been Arranged for Friday, but Mrs. Vanderbilt's Death Has Interfered with Her Titled Granddaughter's Plans.

By Julian Ralph.

Blenheim, Oxfordshire, England, Nov. 22.—The royal family of England are on the eve of conferring their benison on the union of the Duke of Marlborough and Consuelo Vanderbilt, the excellent attending whose home-coming has scarcely yet subsided.

The young couple were then greeted and feted on all sides, and to-morrow they will receive as their guests at Blenheim Palace the Prince and Princess of Wales, their only unmarried child, the Princess Victoria, and the Prince and Princess Charles of Denmark.

To meet them as distinguished a house party as it is possible to imagine will assemble. It will comprise the Marquis and Marchioness of Londonderry and their charming daughter, Lady Helen Stuart; Lord and Lady Gotsford, Lord and Lady Curzon, Lady Randolph Churchill, Lady Lillian Churchill, Sir Samuel 221 La Sophia Scott, Lord Chesterfield, Mr. Mrs. Grenfell, Right Hon. George Curzon and his American bride, nee Lettice; Right Hon. Arthur J. Balfour, leader of the Government party in the House of Commons, and Right Hon. Henry Chaplin, M. P., president of the Board of Agriculture.

## Villagers Show Their Loyalty.

Immense preparations have been made, both at the palace and the villages on the huge Blenheim estate to honor the occasion, and the royal visitors who will arrive to-morrow evening in Woodstock. In this most important of the villages, which it may be mentioned as a corporate borough, boasting a charter signed by King Henry VI., a scheme of decoration has been adopted which evidences the love of the inhabitants for the ancient house of Marlborough, and their loyalty to the Crown.

## The Stamp of Marlborough.

The young Duchess of Marlborough, although she was some time ago presented at the Queen's court, and, by virtue of that presentation, welcomed and accepted in the most exclusive society circles, yet remained to be publicly acknowledged in the most exalted spheres. To-morrow will see that recognition, when the Prince and Princess of Wales will set their stamp upon the occasion, and once more the splendors of the princely palace of Blenheim will be revived in more than their pristine grandeur.

Although having only a population of some 2,000 souls, a number of triumphal arches have been erected and almost every household has exerted himself to decorate the premises he occupies in a lavish manner. Woodstock is one of those typical townlets which one finds in the vicinity of these "stately homes of England," which, one often reads of and but seldom in these days sees. It has of itself but one small industry, glove making, and seven-tenths of its population are in one way or another connected with the great estate which gives to the district its only importance. Situated far from the bustle of active life and peopled in the main by those who have always been associated with an individual interest, its manners are yet primitive in almost an extreme degree, and on all hands one cannot fail to observe, in the general conduct of men and affairs, relics of the old vassalage of feudal days when people held allegiance to their titular and territorial grandees.

After the lapse of years since last I visited Blenheim I find myself unable to repress the feeling of bewilderment that overtakes me. Whereas, but a few years ago a very large portion of the vast establishment was closed and entertainment was restricted to very narrow limits, all the apartments are now open and in full occupation, and any amount of life and vigor now prevails at the palace which it has lacked for a long time past.

## Life of Blenheim Revived.

The life of Blenheim has been revived in more ways than this. It must be acknowledged that matters for a period were al-